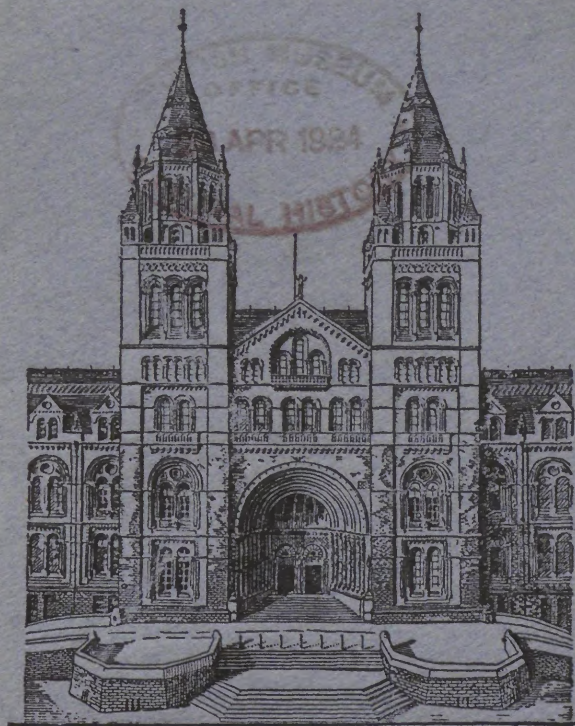


British Museum (Natural History)



EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

SERIES No. 2

5 Cards in Colour

Set E 9

One Shilling



EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

Teinopalpus imperialis, The Kaiserihind

Natural size

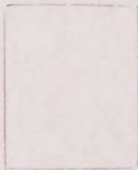
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY)

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POST CARD

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a



b

EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

(a) *Teracolus ione*

(b) *Kallima jacksoni*

Natural size

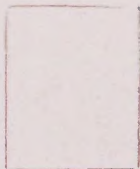
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EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

Papilio ulysses

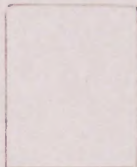
$\frac{3}{4}$ Natural size

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a



b



c



d

EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) <i>Callitaera aurora</i> | (b) <i>Argyrophorus argenteus</i> |
| (c) <i>Lymanopoda samius</i> | (d) <i>Argyronympha pulchra</i> |

Natural size

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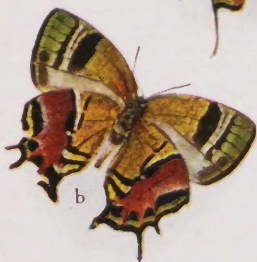




a



a



b



c

EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES

(a) *Evenus regalis*

(b) *Evenus nobilis*

(c) *Theritas ducalis*

Natural size

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EXOTIC BUTTERFLIES.

Series No. 2.

Such an immense number of the Butterflies found in the tropical countries exhibit brilliant colours or strange adaptations of form that no such series as this can give any adequate idea of them. The known species number approximately twenty thousand, and many more, no doubt, remain to be discovered. The hot, moist regions of the tropics, especially the more open tracts, are the most productive of species, but the deserts and the densest jungles also contribute their share. The most brilliant colours seem generally to occur in species living in the wettest regions; and in many species, having a wide range under varying climatic conditions, a considerable difference in the brilliance of coloration can be distinguished between specimens occurring in the wet and dry zones respectively, and also between the forms of the same species, flying in the same area in the different (wet and dry) seasons.

The differences which serve to separate British Lepidoptera into two main divisions, the Butterflies and the Moths, are not always to be found in the case of foreign species. Those families which we call Butterflies, excluding the Hesperidae or Skippers, form merely one of several similar large groups into which the Order Lepidoptera can conveniently be divided. The Hesperidae are best regarded as such another group, and not closely related to the true Butterflies.

E 6r.

Teinopalpus imperialis, Kaiser-i-Hind.

The Eastern Himalayas, Western China and Burma comprise the region inhabited by this handsome species. Writing of its habits in the neighbourhood of Sikkim, where it is better known than elsewhere, Elwes says: "This splendid insect is found only in the forest

region from about 6,000 to 10,000 feet elevation. Unless its habits are known it is most difficult to capture, on account of its remarkably strong, rapid and darting flight, and its habit of resting on high trees, from which it flies only during a few hours of the morning, during the rare intervals of sunshine which prevail in these cloudy, damp and rainy forests. The female, which seldom or never flies in the same places as the males, is extremely rare. In order to take the male, one must go early in the morning in the months of June, July, or August, to one of the few spots in the neighbourhood where a little cleared space is found on the summit of a mountain-top, surrounded by a tract of virgin forest. If the morning is bright and sunny, about eight o'clock one may expect to see *Teinopalpus* flying round the tops of the trees, and occasionally settling, but usually out of reach. The natives lay baits of some evil smelling nature to attract the insect, and with patience and the skilful use of a long-handled net sometimes succeed in taking two or three in a morning in this manner. The insects are so strong and active in the net, however, that they are difficult to get in a perfect state. The flight is usually over by 11 a.m." *Teinopalpus* is a peculiar genus in several ways, containing only this one species, and belongs to the *Papilionidae*.

E 62.

Papilio ulysses.

Velvety black and rich lustrous blue colours, such as those of the upper side of this magnificent swallow-tail butterfly, are not easy to reproduce faithfully, but the postcard gives a very good idea of the species. The blue is metallic, and changes in tone from deep purplish almost to green, according to the angle of light, to some extent varying also in different individuals. Thorax, abdomen, and the bases of the wings are sprinkled with light green scales. Ranging from the Molucca Islands across New Guinea to the Solomon Islands and Queensland, the species has been subjected to such varying conditions that numerous well defined races have been formed. Of these the most handsome is that known as *telegonus*, which inhabits the Northern Moluccas. It resembles the New Guinea specimen shown on the postcard, but has the black borders of the hindwing intersected by streaks of brilliant blue which make their appearance along the veins. In the other direction, namely reduction of the blue areas, the extreme form is represented by the race *gabrielis* from the Admiralty Islands, a most inhospitable locality from which the collector who obtained it was forced to fly at the end of two days on account of the hostility of the natives. The butterfly is said to prefer sunny river valleys, but also to occur in woods and open country, flying fairly high with a rather heavy undulating flight. Its caterpillar feeds on Citrus.

Teracolus is mainly an African genus, and like so many genera of the *Pieridae* it is remarkable for the great degree of seasonal variation exhibited by its species. *Teracolus ione* in the male is comparatively constant on the upper side, but those portions of its under side which are exposed when at rest, which correspond, of course, to those shown in the figure of *Hebomoia glaucippe* (Card E. 48), vary from plain white, occasionally with a black line, to a mottled pinkish which harmonises extremely well with the reddish soil of its surroundings. The female, on the other hand, occurs in a variety of forms. It exhibits the same under side variation as the male, but on the upper side the brilliant violet tip of the male is replaced sometimes by white, sometimes by a much larger bright orange patch, whilst there is nearly always a great extension of the black areas. Dr. Longstaff noted in South Africa that the violet tip of the male was not apparent when the insect was in flight, and that the males have a sweet and flowery scent which, however, is not always easy to detect. Some form or other of this Butterfly is to be found throughout Africa from Cape Colony to Abyssinia, except in the wet regions of the Congo basin and the west coast, and the Sahara and northern coast region.

Probably most people are familiar with the Indian *Kallima inachis*, Leaf Butterfly, to which this extremely beautiful and rather rare African species is closely related. When the Butterfly is at rest, the wonderful colours of the upper side are completely hidden; the wings are pressed closely together, and the tips of the tails rest against the twig on which the insect has settled and look like the stem of a leaf, while the rest of the wings, on account of their rough dirty brown colour, their shape and arrangement, resemble a dead leaf, the effect being heightened by the dark line which crosses them from the tip of the forewing to the tail on the hindwing and suggests the midrib, and, to intensify the disguise, the little white spots which can be seen on the forewings are transparent and look therefore just like a hole in the leaf. When on the wing, the Butterfly is decidedly conspicuous; yet, so effective is the leaf pattern of the under side that from the moment the insect settles amongst the leaves of a bush it is almost impossible to detect it.

It is generally considered that the Butterflies belonging to the family known as *Satyridae* are dull and uninteresting, and the majority of them

certainly are not very attractively coloured. Some shade of brown is the predominant colour, and the usual form of ornamentation consists of a series of eye spots, of varying size, but usually most prominent on the under side of the hindwing. The four Butterflies shown on this card however, all belong to the *Satyridae*. The uppermost (*Callitaera aurora*) is an inhabitant of the dense jungle of tropical South America. Its wings are quite transparent, even the red patch on the hindwing is not completely opaque. *Argyrophorus argenteus*, a shining silvery insect, is only known from Chili, where it occurs at altitudes of 3,000 ft. to 7,000 ft. in the Cordilleras of the Central Province. *Lymanopoda samius* is another South American species, and, like the preceding, is not an inhabitant of the tropical zones, being found chiefly in the mountain regions of Colombia at altitudes of 9,000 to 10,000 ft. Its flight is very rapid, and it is not at all easy to catch. The last species on this card, *Argyronympha pulchra*, comes from the Solomon Islands. In this case the upper side is not especially attractive, but the shining silvery bands and lines and delicate red and grey shading of the under side compensate for the dullness of the other surface.

E 65. (a) *Evenus regalis*, (b) *Evenus nobilis*, (c) *Theritas ducalis*.

On this card are figured three species of *Lycanidae* (Blues) from Central and South America, belonging to the sub-family *Theclinae*. Of the species occurring in the British Isles they come nearest to the Hair-streaks, but, needless to say, are not very closely related to them. They are shown as examples of some of the more brilliant members of a group highly characteristic of tropical America, and long noted for the extraordinary beauty of a great number of its species. The names which have been given by their describers to the species here shown bear testimony to their attractiveness. The upper side in each case is a smooth metallic blue, but the under side has a frosted appearance which greatly enhances the beauty of the colour. All three are comparatively rare, *Theritas ducalis* especially so, and nothing whatever is known of their life histories, but, from the fact that they seem never to fly at less than six or seven feet from the ground, and even to sip the moisture on the leaves high up, instead of descending to the ground to drink as is generally the case, Dr. Seitz concludes that the caterpillars probably also feed fairly high up in the foliage of trees. Other collectors say that these Butterflies seem hardly ever to fly at all, but sit about on the leaves of bushes and trees, and even when disturbed, only flit through the undergrowth a matter of a few feet, and then settle again.